

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /126 W

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R 270920Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1378

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 659

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MR SP LY

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: REPORTED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

REF: RABAT 3384

SUMMARY: AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE CORRESPONDENT AND UN RES REP NOUAKCHOTT CONTACTED AND GIVEN STATEMENTS BY POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT OF SAGUIA EL HARA AND RIO D'ORO CLAIMING THIS NEW ORGANIZATION HAS FOUGHT TWO RECENT ACTIONS AGAINST SPANISH MILITARY IN SPANISH SAHARA. RES REP ALSO GIVEN LETTER TO TRANSMIT TO UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE THRU SEC GEN.

1. ON JULY 18 REPRESENTATIVE OF ORGANIZATION CALLED POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT OF SAGUIA EL HARA AND RIO D'ORO (PLF) CALLED AT OFFICE OF UN RES REP ASKING THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO UN HEADQUARTERS ADDRESSED TO THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE THROUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL. PLF REP ALSO HANDED OVER A "POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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MANIFESTO." BEFORE RES REP COULD RESPOND TO REQUEST HE WAS

CONTACTED BY SPANISH AMBASSADOR WHO HAD LEARNED FROM AFP CORRESPONDENT THAT PLF HAD CALLED ON AFP AND UN RES REP. SPANISH AMBASSADOR WAS "VERY UPSET" AT "NON-POLITICAL" UN REP INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL QUESTION. AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD REP THAT FORMIN MOUKNASS SIMILARLY DISTURBED PLF'S ATTEMPTED USE OF UN REPRESENTATIVE ACCREDITED TO MAURITANIA. ALTHOUGH REP PLANNED TO DISPATCH LETTERS AS "ROUTINE MATTER," REACTION OF SPANISH AND POSSIBLE INTEREST OF FORMIN PROMPTED HIS WRITING MINISTRY FOR PERMISSION TO DO SO. REPLY NOT YET RECEIVED.

2. "POLITICAL MANIFESTO" IS SHORT DOCUMENT IDENTIFYING FRONT AS A) A PART OF THE "ARAB REVOLUTION;" B) SUPPORTER OF ALL ANTI-COLONIAL AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES; AND C) ONE WHICH "CONSIDERS COOPERATION WITH THE ALGERIAN REVOLUTION THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THIS AFFAIR TO PROTECT THE THIRD WORLD FROM AGGRESSION."

3. LETTER CHARGES SPANISH WITH "MILITARY EXPERIMENTATION" RESULTING IN DEATH AND DROUGHT, PROPAGATION OF AN ALIEN FAITH, THE EXPROPRIATION "LOCAL ECONOMIC RESOURCES," THE PROMOTION OF INTERTRIBAL CONFLICT, ETC. LETTER STATES THAT THE PLF WAS FOUNDED MAY 10, 1973, AND IS "AN ALTERNATIVE" TO THE SAGUIA EL HARA AND RIO D'ORO LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

4. ONE FURTHER DOCUMENT BY PLF, A COMMUNIQUE, WAS GIVEN ONLY TO AFP REP. ACCORDING CORRESPONDENT, COMMUNIQUE CLAIMS THE PLF HAD ENGAGED IN TWO ACTIONS AGAINST THE SPANISH, AT KHANGA MAY 20 AND TFARITY, BIR LAHLU JUNE 10, AND HAD OCCUPIED ONE FRONTIER POST FOR AN HOUR. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CLAIMS THAT SPANISH BOMBARDED PLF POSITIONS IN MOUNTAINS OF KARB ELHAWA, AFFAM ELNIDAN, AMGALA AND RGHAINA FOR SEVEN STRAIGHT DAYS IN LATE JUNE. THE COMMUNIQUE FURTHER ASSERTED THAT THE SPANISH HAD ARRESTED 32 "UNARMED CITIZENS" AS WELL AS REMOVED FROM OFFICE THE NEWLY ELECTED "CHEIKHS."

5. SPANISH EMBASSY OFFICER DENIED SUBSTANCE OF COMMUNIQUE BUT DID ACKNOWLEDGE "TWO RECENT ATTEMPTS" BY DISSIDENT GROUPS TO INFILTRATE THE SPANISH SAHARA FROM THE EAST. ONE GROUP CONSISTING OF FIVE ALGERIANS AND THREE RESIDENTS OF SPANISH SAHARA WAS STOPPED, HE SAID, BY ALGERIAN FORCES BEFORE THEY

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COULD ENTER THE TERRITORY. THE SECOND GROUP CONSISTING OF MAURITANIANS WAS SIMILARLY INTERCEPTED BY MAURITANIAN AUTHORITIES. SPANISH EMBOFF DID NOT KNOW IF THESE MEN WERE MEMBERS OF PLF BUT DID ACKNOWLEDGE SPANISH PLEASURE THAT PROLIFERATION OF SUCH GROUPS AS MOREHOB, AUGUST 21 MOVEMENT, THE PLF ETC., INDICATED AS MANY DISPUTES WITHIN THIS FRATERNITY AS EXISTED BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE SEVERAL INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE SAHARA'S FUTURE. ASKED IF SMALL BAND OF MEN COULD DO SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE

TO SPANISH HOLDINGS IN AREA, EMBOFF REPLIED THEY WERE WELL PREPARED "WITH EQUIPMENT THAT, I THINK, WE BOUGHT FROM US, BUT, WE WON'T TELL ANYBODY."

6. THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN SPATE OF RUMORS IN NOUAKCHOTT ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY IN THE SAHARA. ONE OF MORE PROVOCATIVE HAS BEEN CIRCULATED BY THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAS TOLD US THAT HE BELIEVES THE LIBYANS HAVE BEEN USING THEIR CULTURAL CENTER IN ATAR AS A BASE FOR SUPPLYING FUNDS TO DISSIDENTS IN THE SPANISH SAHARA.

7. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION MADE BY UN REP OF LETTER AND MANIFESTO BEING POUCHED TO AF/N WITH PHOTO-COPY OF ARABIC ORIGINALS.  
MURPHY

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